

Washington, Feb. 22, 1865.

Dear Wendell:

Thanks for your two letters, and the suggestions contained in them. It is out of the question, however, to try to persuade me to give an off-hand lecture at Brooklyn, with reference to matters and things in Washington - the President's Veto, &c. So, have my theme announced as "Liberty Victorious." Of course, I shall say something about what I have seen and heard here, before concluding my lecture; but I wish to have no special announcement made on that point. Trust me as to the testimony I shall give.

I have come here at a very interesting and opportune period. This is a live Congress, and every day is big with events of national importance. I have heard several very radical speeches in the Senate - one by Senator Yates, "flat-footed" in favor of universal [male] suffrage; another by

13 To think of Henry Ward Beecher endorsing the President and his Veto!

P.S. The President, Henry kind & generous, and gave Henry, Frank and myself a ride to George Town Heights. Henry is a great sufferer from his rheumatic attacks. Henry is in prime condition. He will speak here to you all day.

Senator Wade, on his proposed amendment of the Constitution, allowing no man to be re-elected to the office of President of the United States — a very bold speech in its utterance; and a third by Senator Trumbull, distinguished for logical power and rigor of treatment, pulverizing the President's Veto, and showing him to have falsified all its provisions and purposes. I have also listened to the reading of a speech by that Kentucky factionist, Garret Davis, in support of the Veto. The copperhead strength is very weak, in intellect and numbers, in both houses of Congress.

Last evening, I called with Harry at Secretary Stanton's residence, but he and his wife had gone out to spend the evening.

This forenoon I had a brief interview with General Howard, who is, of course, full of uncertainty as to what is to be the duration or power of the Bureau; but he told me that he had an interview with the President yesterday, who gave him to understand that he

should speedily announce, by proclamation, that the war has ended and peace been restored; and that the Bureau would continue until a year from that date, according to the terms of the Bill constituting the Bureau. He is not, however, to be depended on, especially as all Rebelism and Copperdom are so warmly espousing his course. To-morrow promises to be a very lively day in the Senate, on the subject. Senator Wilson is to introduce another Bill, providing for the continuance of the Bureau two years from May next, with enlarged powers; but if it pass, the President will doubtless veto it, as in the former instance.

To-day, (22d,) Washington is all astir. The day is superb as to the weather - like an April day in Boston - and Pennsylvania Avenue is thronged by all sorts of people. An immense mass of secessionists and copperheads are holding a meeting at the Theatre, to sustain the recreant President; and I understand he is to address them! I am sure the bottomless pit is equally jubilant.

Ms. A. 1.1 v. 7, p. 76

I have just come, with Franky, from the Capitol, where a most fitting and eloquent eulogium has been bestowed upon the character and services of ~~the~~ late Henry Winter Davis by Senator Cresswell of Maryland. The hall of the House was crowded in every part. The Judges of the Supreme Court were present — the leading military men — dignitaries of all kinds — Senators and Representatives, &c. I got in after the oration began, and was standing back near the door, when Senator Colfax got his eye upon me, and instantly sent a messenger to conduct me to a seat near to Secretary Stanton, Judge Chase, and other notables. After the services, I spoke to Stanton, who expressed great regret that he was not at home last evening, and said he would not be absent again if I would call. I was introduced to a large number of Senators, Representatives, and persons from various parts of the country, and warmly received.

To-morrow ^{evening} I am to lecture in the Union League Hall — hold four hundred — as all the others are engaged. On Sunday evening I expect to address the colored people in one of their churches. Your ever affectionate Father.